Funds under NRCP for Karnataka

1440. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested for providing funds under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for implementation of the project in 11 towns of the State; and

(b) if so, the details and Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the ongoing projects in 9 towns of Karnataka under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), the Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals for 11 additional towns namely, Bagalkot, Maddur, Baillahongal, Shahbad, Hospet, Gangawati, Kanakpura, Yadgir, Dandeli, Siraguppa and Madikeri. Due to inadequate outlay, these proposals could not be considered and the State Government of Karnataka had been informed accordingly.

Climate change

1441. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the climate change which is at its incipient stage if not controlled would adversely impact our environment and agricultural productivity;

(b) if so, whether initiatives are proposed/taken in co-ordination with other developing and developed countries to contain the adverse impact of climate change;

(c) if so, furnish the details thereof and what would be the outcome of such initiatives in quantitative terms such as reduction of emission levels, reduction in rising temperatures etc; and

(d) if not, explain the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The climate change has emerged as a global environmental challenge and is projected to adversely impact various aspects. According to Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change is a long term issue. The greenhouse gases have a long retention time in the atmosphere. Impact of these greenhouse gases will continue to manifest throughout 21st century.

(b) to (d) The Government of India is a Party to Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has set up the National Clean Development Mechanism Authority to accord Host Country Approvals to eligible Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects as per the requirements of Marrakesh Accords. Although India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments under UNFCCC, yet, a sustainable development path is being followed in India by a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change. India is a partner to the new Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate which consists of both developed and developing countries—Australia, Canada, China, Japan, South Korea and the USA besides India. India has also been impressing upon developed countries to transfer environmentally

sound and cleaner energy technologies into the limited public domain for use by developing countries for early adoption, diffusion and deployment accompanied with transfer of financial resources.

Wildlife safeguard

1442. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of elephants and wild lives killed due to accidents met on railway tracks during last five years, year and animal-wise; and

(b) whether all recommendations of Expert Committee, which was formed to safeguard wildlife, have not been properly implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As reported by the State/UT Governments, the number of elephants and tigers killed in train accident during last five years are as follow:

Year	Number of Deaths	
	Tiger	Elephant
2003-04	Nil	13
2004-05	Nil	6
2005-06	1	2
2006-07	1	8
2007-08	2	11

(b) An Expert Committee was constituted in the year 2001 to suggest safeguards for preventing accidental deaths on railway tracks passing through Siliguri Junction to Alipurduar junction of the West Bengal. As reported by the State Government, the Railways have implemented the recommendation of the Expert Committee. However, even after the implementation of the recommendation of the Expert Committee, the accidents are taking place. Ministry has constituted a new Expert Committee in the year 2007 to re-examine and suggest further mitigation measures.

Genetically modified products

1443. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has asked the Government to consider applications for grant of fresh approvals to genetically modified products after considering biosafety;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in this regard;

(c) the number of approvals for Genetically Modified varieties for the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?